

**Connecting Libraries and Schools Through Information Literacy Project
Steering Committee Meeting
October 1, 2003
Puget Sound ESD, 9:30-3:00**

Next 2 meeting dates set

Weds, Nov 5, 2003 – at PSESD

Weds, Dec 3, 2003

Details about location and agenda forthcoming.

Assignments

- K12 committee members will put together some brief information about the EALRs and WaSL. Please forward to Martha (mshinners@secstate.wa.gov) who will compile and distribute
- Public library committee members will put together information cheat sheets on public library funding. Please forward to Rhona (rhona@ix.netcom.com) who will compile and distribute
- Elaine has electronic copy of matrix prepared for the WAC which she will distribute
- Rhona will start a listserv
- All SC members will forward suggestions to Rhona (who will contact) for principal, superintendent, or school administrator to join the SC

Meeting Notes

Present: Viki Ash-Geisler, Ellen Duffy, Karen Farley, Nancy Graf, John Holmes, Kristy Kirkpatrick, Rhona Klein, Betty Marcoux, Kelley McHenry, Nadean Meyer, Christine Perkins, Greg Rathbone, Martha Shinnars, Rand Simmons, Leeann Tourtillott, Elaine Twogood

The meeting began with general statements of introductions and interests.

What are the outcomes from this initiative that we would like to see:

Nadine: Sustainability. Would like to see technology plays a role. Find the words that make sense to non-librarian people.

Viki: Make something happen.

Kristie: Make something happen.

Greg: Have a uniform OPAC. Would like intercommunication among libraries.

Nancy: Council will hold us to the fire to make things happen. This is a perfect segue from Information Literacy and K12 initiatives. We can make things happen in the lives of children.

Elaine: Anxious to work with public libraries to further ability of students to have information skills.

Rand: Bureaucratic responsibilities. Exciting opportunity to meld public and school libraries to help children.

Christine: Jackson Co. (Oregon) shared catalog among public, school, and community college libraries. Would like a toolbox of concrete examples that small public libraries could use.

Kelly: Pool resources. Understand what each other is doing.

John: Break down the traditional structures and “school as place” in which we provide education to anyone. Create a model to provide learning services to everyone and that can be expanded.

Karen: Partnership that emphasizes the librarian part of the teacher-librarian.

Betty: Equalize the playing field. Teens and children should not be marginalized in information services.

Rhona: Heightened awareness by the public of what we go through to provide services. Exciting partnerships between public libraries.

Leeann: See dollars go to individuals in public libraries doing what we know works.

Martha: Lots of room for collaboration. Having time to talk about things.

Review of Project Goals

Reviewed and edited project goals from the FY 2004 proposal.

Background: May 30, 2003 meeting to prepare 2004 proposal for LCW (Library Council of Washington) deadline. Look at 2004 proposal and decide what we really want to do. Project Manager discussed the recent proposal for the Connecting Initiative which was submitted to LCW. The initiative took a 15% cut in 2004 LSTA funding from the proposed amount of \$214,240 to the approved amount of \$182,825. We will be dealing with the allocation of the budget in the next several meetings.

Overarching goal: Through line or Mission Statement:

Increase Washington K12 students’ information literacy skills, ie., student’s ability to effectively locate, evaluate, and use information, by initiating and sharing cooperative public library and school information literacy projects. (consensus)

Goal 1 questions raised and discussions:

Discussion on the definition of IL: Question was raised, “how much emphasis will be on evaluating resources?” Evaluating is part of the national standards for K12 and public libraries today. Evaluation is the depth we need. Group consensus was to add word “effectively” (preceding “locate, evaluate, and use information...” to mission statement). Assess how much shared cooperative efforts that focus on students have been done. Evaluating is part of the national standards. From k12 side, major piece. For the public libraries, too.

Goal 1 is through line or mission – others are strategies (consensus)

Goal 2. Increase awareness in public library and school communities of K12 students’ information literacy behaviors. (consensus)

Goal 2 questions and discussion: After some discussion, it was agreed to list in our mission statement and goals the students focused on in our initiative as “K12 students.” Questions raised: When we speak about “K12” do we mean age groups or development level? What about GED, older, non traditional, and home schooled students? Are they being left out by our use of term “K12”? It was agreed that initiative’s RFPs and grant

instructions should specify all the student groups we intend to include. Committee agreed that although K12 students are focus of project scope, it may be useful to include 2-year college library **staff** in trainings this project offers.

Goal 3. Improve public libraries staffs' knowledge of Washington State EALRs, especially as assessed in the WASL, and research models as they relate to K12 students' information literacy skills. (consensus)

Goal 3 discussion: on the background of EALRs and WaSL led to the inclusion of EALRs **in context of WaSL** in goal statement. As first proposed this project was tied to the EALRs. EALRs came out of reform act for education (see handout). Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WaSL) test where we are in the EALRs, 4, 7 & 10 grades. Because of the No Child Left Behind Act, math and reading are emphasized, especially reading, and testing has to happen in other grades. Washington has set a level of requirements. Information literacy should be part of every content area. Information literacy skills are not directly addressed in EALRs, but we are beginning to see IL skills embedded in them.

Some discussion ensued on whether or not we should directly address EALRs in our goals. It was agreed that these are the metrics that political entities and school administrations endorse and are paying attention to. In order to have our evaluations and assessments be in sync with these bodies and our studies accepted and respected, we need to address them, as well. We may also want to develop our own standards of assessment and evaluation, in addition to EALRs

Goal 4. Improve school communities' knowledge of public library programs and services as they relate to k12 students' information literacy skills. (consensus)

Goal 5. Provide funding for collaborative projects between public libraries and schools focused on improving students' information literacy skills. (consensus)

Goal 6. Develop and disseminate best practices. (consensus)

The mission statement and goals or strategies:

1. Overarching Goal, Through Line or Mission Statement:
Increase Washington K12 students' information literacy skills, i.e., student's ability to effectively locate, evaluate, and use information, by initiating and sharing cooperative public library and school information literacy projects.
2. Increase awareness in public library and school communities of K12 students' information literacy behaviors.
3. Improve public libraries staffs' knowledge of Washington State EALRs, especially as assessed in the WASL, and research models as they relate to K12 students' information literacy skills.

4. Improve school communities' knowledge of public library programs and services as they relate to K12 students' information literacy skills.
5. Provide funding for collaborative projects between public libraries and schools focused on improving students' information literacy skills.
6. Develop and disseminate best practices.

During lunch, committee members shared inspiring stories of successful collaborative ventures between schools and libraries.

Needs assessment and data gathering

Project Manager discussed the recent proposal for the Connecting Initiative which was submitted to LCW (Library Council of Washington). The initiative took a 15% cut in 2004 LSTA funding from the proposed amount of \$214,240 to the approved amount of \$182,825. We will be dealing with the allocation of the budget in the next several meetings.

Subcommittees will be developed as the needs arrive: e.g., needs assessment, data gathering, curriculum development, toolbox development, etc.

Needs assessment work must be fleshed out soon. A subcommittee will need to be formed to write RFP to hire consultant to conduct the needs assessment. What needs to we want to find out about? What will lead us to our goal? Where data summaries and needs assessment already exist, we need to gather these and utilize them.

Assessment.

Teach the library what works well.

Outcomes based evaluation. Would some committee members like to attend the IMLS training which will take place in Olympia Dec 16 & 17? Project manager will look into how many Connecting SC members may participate in this training. This will be a valuable opportunity for those who are interested.

Scope of project

Discussed importance of paying attention to our project scope. If we widen our audiences, stakeholders and project scope too much, we run the risk of taking on too much and not being successful. A narrow and well defined scope will allow us to focus our attention and work, and measure our performance and results. Details of scope need to be addressed soon.

Add school principal or superintendent to the advisory committee? Perhaps as special advisors. Suggest names to Rhona.

Officers from school associations. Appoint a position not a person.

Names from WLMA or WLA?

WASDA (school directors – board members)

WASA? (superintendents, principals)

The following URLs were offered for all SC members to review:

www.k12library.org

www.wlma.org

www.librarysmart.com

Respectfully submitted,
Rand Simmons and Rhona Klein